

St John's
CENTRE

enriching lives in our community

Annual Report 2014

1. Reference and administrative details of the charity, its trustees and advisers

The Charity name is: St John's Centre, Charity Number: 1146058, Company number: 7597525,

Registered office:

St John's Centre,
St Johns Road
Old Trafford,
Manchester M16 7GX

Trustees:

Appointed 2/10/2012:- Rev John D Hughes, Miss Evelyn Cosham, Mrs Louise Dunn, Mrs Glynis Craig, Mrs Sandra Barber, Mrs Tahira Khan Sindhu, Mr Jonathan Baker (appointed October 2013)

(Mr Colin Barson, Mrs Julie Nelson Hall appointments terminated October 2013)

Additional information:

Senior staff member in charge of day to day management of the charity: Ms Christine Aspinall

Independent examiner of accounts: Mr Alastair Gillian 53 Burnedge Fold Road, Grasscroft, Oldham OL4 4EE.

Bankers:

Barclays Bank
587, Wilbraham Road,
Chorlton-Cum-Hardy,
Manchester,
M21 9AL

2. Structure, governance and management

St John's Centre is a Company Limited by Guarantee and a Charity; is constituted by Articles of Association adopted March 2011.

Trustees are appointed in accordance with our governing document. 4 Parochial Church Council (PCC) nominated representatives, who are appointed by the PCC at the meeting prior to St John's Centre's AGM, plus 3 members from the local community and there are 2 spaces for co-optees onto the board from affiliated groups. Trustees are formally elected at the Annual General Meeting. When trustees have been recruited they are asked to attend an interview, given an induction pack with information of the charitable company, background information, reports from the last 2 meetings, a business plan, relevant policies and a code of conduct. We also provide a trustees handbook. Ongoing training is arranged for trustees with opportunities provided for specific training as and when needed.

Decisions are made by trustees sitting as a board at 6 meetings per annum. Specific work is carried out by 1 standing sub group, at present: Funding & Strategy. Other sub groups are set up as and when needed time limited and specific. The board retains all liability for decision making around financial issues.

3. Financial review:

Reserves policy

Explanation of any Deficit

See second part of this report for examined accounts for the year 2013/14

4. Funds held as custodian trustee on behalf of others

NONE

5. Charitable Aims, Objectives, Public benefit statement

The charity's objects ("Objects") are specifically restricted to the following:

- 1. To further or benefit the residents of Old Trafford, Manchester and the neighbourhood, without distinction of sex, sexual orientation, race or of political, religious or other opinions by associating together the said residents and the local authorities, voluntary and other organisations in a common effort to advance education and to provide facilities in the interests of social welfare for recreation, leisure time, occupation with the objective of improving the conditions of life for the residents.*
- 2. To promote such other purposes as are charitable according to the laws of England and Wales for the benefit of the public as may from time to time be determined.*
- 3. This annual Report contains all aspects of public benefit of the charity.**

Staff & Board Members 2013/14

Staff:

Christine Aspinall - Centre Manager
Elaine Eland - Development Worker
Diane Browne - Administrator
Emma Wilton - Courses Co-ordinator
Prem Kaur - Crèche Supervisor
Lizzie Quinn - Crèche worker
John Ward - Cleaner & Maintenance

Board:



John
Hughes



Louise
Dunn



Evelyn
Cosham



Sandra
Barber



Glynis
Craig



Jonathan
Baker



Tahira
Khan Sindhu

Mission Statement:

Through education and recreation we seek to promote good relationships within our diverse community; give individuals the opportunity to realise their full potential; meet the needs of the present and create a sustainable resource for the future.

Centre Manager's Report - Chris Aspinall

32 not out! This is our 3rd Year as a Company and Charity and yet another successful year for our Centre. We have been very busy serving the community, meeting needs and creating opportunities for people to enrich their lives, particularly in the areas of community learning; community events, young people's holiday activities, work experience and volunteering.

There are many heart-warming stories of how people have been helped and encouraged by us being here; and how they have grown in skills and confidence through attending courses and other activities at the Centre.

Partnership work is continuing to flourish, and we have strengthened our links with Trafford Housing Trust who have representation on our board, The Christmas Camel event (which is *still* being talked about) being a good piece of joined up working between us and support for half term activities and summer school.



Links with learning providers, WEA and Trafford College continue from strength to strength; this year has been a 'bumper' year for courses, with many students gaining qualifications in Community Interpreting, First Aid, Food Hygiene and Basic Computer skills and more.

Our Children and Young people's activities have flourished; Crèche workers initiated a new weekly Stay & Play session which has proved to be really popular with parents/carers; and people are still stopping me on the street to say how much their children enjoyed our two weeks of summer activities and how much they themselves appreciated it.

Volunteering opportunities have been offered, both backroom and delivery. Our volunteers have been excellent, they have gained skills and experience and shared their own skills too, some have found employment or gone on to further education.



The Centre continues to offer work experience to young people from the local high schools (usually one or two weeks). We try to make sure the experience is both valuable and enjoyable for them. This year we have offered office based experience and crèche work. Deepak, pictured here, said in a letter,

"I would like to say thanks for letting me spend a week at St John's Centre, and for helping me out when I needed it. I have learned many new things from you and everyone there; I really appreciate it". Deepak Singh, Trinity

High School. And Chloe from Stretford High School said, *"Thank you, I've loved every second of it!"*

In April we said farewell and hello again to our Admin & Finance worker Anita Ward. Anita was with us for 15 years. We haven't really had a chance to miss her as she has come to join us for a couple of hours per week as a volunteer for the last few months. She is also going to write the script for our community panto in the New Year (Oh no she isn't, Oh yes, she is.....).

As a temporary measure whilst we are applying for funding we have employed a part time admin worker and our treasurer has stepped into the day to day finance role as a volunteer.



The wonderful St John's Sunshine (SJS) Community Benefit Company continues to supply some of the Centre's electricity which is generated by solar panels on the church roof. This year the saving on energy bills was £500. The scheme has also given out grants to

small local community initiatives from income generated by the government FIT (Feed in Tariff). SJS are raising further funds for more panels, making for a cleaner, greener and more sustainable building, serving to help both the community, *and the planet!*

Supporting Community Groups

One of the roles that the Centre continues to fulfil is to support the groups that use the Centre and enable new groups to develop using space at the Centre, and we have acted as an 'incubator' for projects. The Centre was awarded £2980 to help new projects to get off the ground by giving them free space (Room hire or Hot desk space) for a specified period whilst they find funding, get a constitution together, do some marketing, see if their project works. Initiatives supported: Zumbini, Business Club, Community Art, OT Boxing Club, Ella Bella Dance Group, Young Identity, Community Photography, A few of these groups are still in existence, but some found that their project didn't take off. Nothing has been wasted as lessons have been learned along the way for each of the groups. Reece Williams from 'Young Identity', one of the groups which is still in existence, said:



'As a project with a funding deficit, the support given by Free Space allowed us to engage with young people in the community in a safe, accessible venue. We are proud that our Old Trafford Slam Team won a regional slam poetry competition called Shake the Dust and represented the whole of the North West. This would not have been possible without the support of the Free Space Project. We would like to thank St John's for their continued support.'

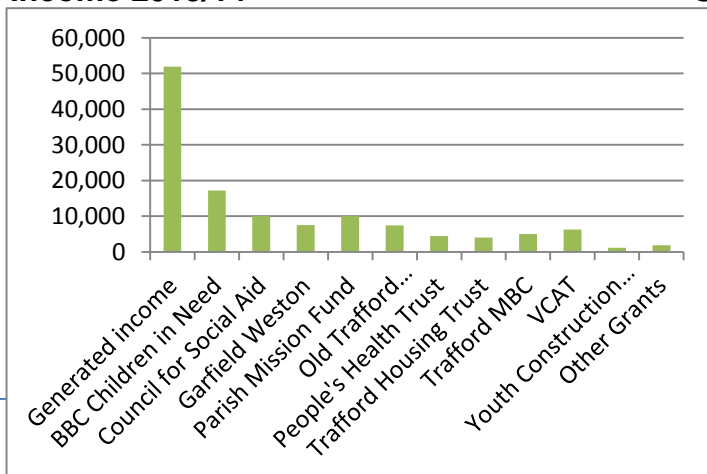
Funding:

As shown in the graph the largest amount of income is self generated. The second largest being the Children in Need grant, which we have for a further 16 months. We have recently been awarded an ESF grant (not in the graph). Though the Centre is keeping its head above water financially for the time being, things are definitely getting harder. Where there is still funding available, we find ourselves competing with many others.

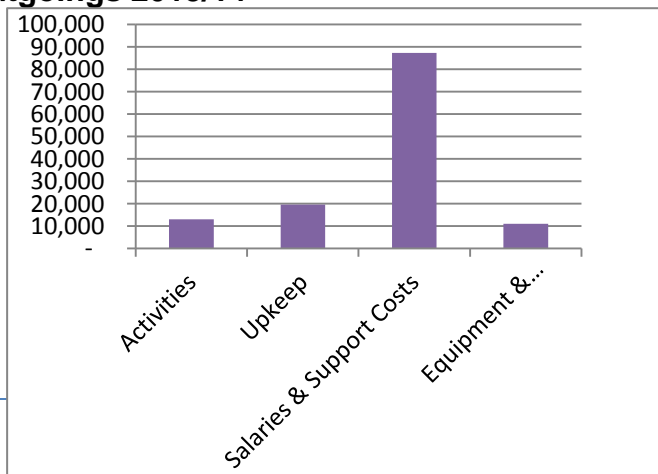
We haven't had any core funding from Trafford Council, for 4 years, but have been able to bid for VCS Grant's money of which we received £5,000 in 2013/14 for one year; this has now finished and we have not been able to access any further funding from VCS grants.

However, the Diocese recognises the importance of our work and has been very generous in its support. We are still working on a Reaching Community's application. Thank you to all our funders; partners; associates.

Income 2013/14



Outgoings 2013/14



Future Developments

Trafford Quality Mark - After our success with the PQASSO quality systems award which we have for a further 2 years, the Centre is now working towards the Trafford Quality Mark which is a bespoke award – the mark will give the council confidence that we are ‘Tender ready’ and can compete with others to deliver quality services.

‘Grow, Cook, Eat, Learn & Earn’ - we are still developing the project, which involves teaching people resilience; how to grow their own fruit and vegetables, offering workplace training and social enterprise development through a cafe enterprise. The further development is dependent on a successful funding application to BIG lottery for Capital funding to improve the kitchen facilities.

Community Interpreting – an opportunity has arisen from our community interpreter’s level 2 accredited training, to set up a pool of trained interpreters both paid and voluntary that would work both within our community setting and throughout Trafford and Manchester. Anna Mansell, a local resident and one of the students from the interpreting course, is taking the lead on this. This is an exciting project so watch this space!

After School Provision - Due to our success in other areas of childcare provision, we have been pondering the idea of starting up our own ‘After School’ provision. This is only at the ideas stage at the moment and research will be done in the next few months to assess the need.

Lastly from me.... I would like to thank our directors, volunteers and teachers for helping to make a difference to people’s lives through the work of the Centre.

A special thank you to the staff team – you have been truly amazing!



Chairperson’s comments - John Hughes

Recently, as a resident of Old Trafford's diverse community, I have attended events at St John's Centre that have highlighted both global and local concerns. These events have not been run by the Centre staff, volunteers or regular user groups, yet somehow each one embodied what we try to provide for all who visit us, a warm welcome, a chance to listen and learn, create and contribute, relax and reach out, as community.

Community is tricky word. We all like to lay claim to it, yet none of us owns it. St John's Centre's strap line is 'enriching lives in our community'. We hope we do this. We certainly couldn't do this without our fantastic staff and volunteers, funders and friends, but nor could we without members of our wonderful community who find in St John's Centre a space to be themselves and think about others. Long may this be so and thank you for all you do in enriching our lives too, as well as those of our local and global community!

Courses Co-ordinator's Report - Emma Wilton

Courses 2013-14



In this academic year we registered over 400 learners.

We continued to have strong relationships with Trafford College Community Learning and the WEA.

Ongoing courses

We continued to run our most popular classes:

- ESOL (4 levels)
- Dressmaking
- Literacy and Numeracy
- Cake Decorating (3 levels)
- Painting and Drawing
- Computing (3 different classes)
- Photoshop and Make a Website



We also held two more accredited Community Interpreting courses.

Our volunteer-led classes in ESOL entry 1/2/3, IT, sewing, Spanish, baking and gardening continued.

New Developments

- Trafford College have provided two accredited courses, First Aid and Food Safety, which have had a high pass rate and improved learners' employability.
- Thanks to funding from the People's Health Trust, some of our learners from the Healthy Cookery and Baking courses have formed a cookery group, and have volunteered to cook for several events.

Prospects for 2014-15

Over 300 people attended our Open Day, and in September/October 2014 we enrolled over 250 people.

- The WEA have been able to offer us an additional ESOL class, and Trafford College are also offering an ESOL class here, making a total of four classes, including a Pre-entry (complete beginners') course for the first time in several years.
- Trafford College are also offering a second Literacy course.
- Trafford College Community Learning is providing two levels of IT, and Healthy Cookery classes.
- A group of learners who gained a Level 2 Community Interpreting qualification are working towards starting a Community Interpreting Service to find paid and voluntary work for themselves. We will be offering a Level 3 accredited course in January for them, and others, to further develop their skills.

Volunteering at the Centre – Diane Browne

The Centre has always had a strong voluntary ethos and in 2013/14 36 volunteers have helped us at the Centre. We have some very skilled people on board with us giving of their time during the week and some weekends, involving themselves in the roles below



- Tutor support, ESOL conversation groups
- photography
- Gardening
- Sewing group
- Computer workshop
- Office support
- Summer school
- Enrolment day
- Play Together, Stay Together sessions
- Spanish lessons
- Centre & Church events

Let's hear from the volunteers themselves....

Nasrien Siddiq *"I have been volunteering at the Centre now for over a year, I help students in the ESOL classes at entry level 1 and 2 with their English conversation. I have gained confidence, and have learned about different cultures, by interacting with the students. Other people should consider volunteering here as you gain skills, confidence and get to help others as you learn yourself".*

Susan Khalid *"I have been volunteering at the Centre since September 2013, I have gained the opportunity to provide a service to the local community, a lifetime of experience, confidence and knowledge – I would say if you are thinking of volunteering, 'go for it! It's a great experience"*

Alisha *I started volunteering with the Centre last year, supporting the English for speakers of other languages course (ESOL) which the Centre runs for those who cannot access government funded courses. I have since gained a PTTLS qualification (preparing to Teach in the Lifelong Learning Sector) and have now progressed to the next stage in my learning development, and will be coming back to the Centre for my teaching hours. St John's Centre has given me an opportunity to put my skills into practice and to gain confidence with valuable hands on experience.*

Some of Our volunteers at work



Crèche Report - Prem Kaur & Lizzie Quinn

Prem & Lizzie run our friendly and caring creche. They are qualified childcare practitioners who are dedicated to continual improvement within the setting, as not only is it important for the children, it is important for the parents too, as they need to know that their children are being well cared for when they leave them. Both staff are from the local area and are parents themselves, which is helpful as they know some of the difficulties that parents experience when leaving their children for the first time.



Over 100 parents, and their children of course, have benefited from the Creche provision between September 2013 – present

Let's hear what the Parents say!

"I was worried at first, but the staff have been great and have helped Anah to settle in. She enjoys coming to the creche now. Thank you!" Farah

"staff are exceptional, I have had loads of support settling in my daughter" Anna.

"We are very comfortable with the creche, I'm very happy and also my babies are happy. Nannys they are good caring" Abbas's Mum



Wednesday Stay & Play

Crèche workers now run a stay and play session each Wednesday morning 10 – 11:30am for parents and under 5s. This is a new initiative - after a slow start the sessions have grown in popularity. With the

proposed closure of the Sure Start centres, we feel this is a much needed resource in our area. We have been invited along to put up displays and talk to families re health related issues, employment and much more.

'Play Together - Stay Together'

The creche staff, alongside our development worker, run half term 'Play Together, Stay Together' family activity sessions which have become an integral part of the Centre's year. These sessions run on 2 days during half term and include a family keep fit session, they have been well received and enjoyed enormously by families in the area.

Parents' Comments

"Well planned activities, my children had a great time!"

"We had a lovely morning, great value and activities"

"Super, Very lovely activities and appropriate for children, I enjoyed joining in myself"





Development Worker's Report - Elaine Eland

Camels are Coming - in partnership with St. Bride's Church & Trafford Housing Trust.

It might have seemed madness to plan to have the 3 Wise Men riding on camels around Old Trafford following stars – but the Christmas spirit took over and St. John's made it happen. Schools and groups and community groups made stars for the camels to follow. The journey started and ended at St. Bride's Church – the site of an important new community development for Old Trafford.



What guides you? What hopes do you travel with? What gifts do you bring to the community? The 3 questions asked by 3 Wise Women to the new Bishop of Manchester. Many others in the community answered. (69 people were involved in



working towards/on the day, approx 1618 attended)

International Women's Day



We had: a display on the Women's Suffrage Movement – provided by South Manchester Dolls House group; Mini banner making with one of our volunteers – Virginia (a woman with talents found!) and a display of work by 'SciLight' – a women's community banner and suffragette memorabilia.

Our garden group provided expert advice and a plant swap area. The cake decorators raised funds for St. John's with cup cakes. Lunch was provided by members of the cookery group volunteering. (76 women attended – and 6 men)

Dark to Light Exhibition in partnership with Let's Go Global.

Highlighting the work of local Old Trafford artists, a 2 week exhibition was held. Commissions were made to 8 artists for themed work. In total 16 artists and groups exhibited their work.

A fantastic book was produced containing images from the exhibition and poetry from people in the community on Dark to Light.

A support network for Old Trafford artists is being developed and training opportunities funded. (178 people attended the launch, 8 artists + 4 art groups exhibited work)



Summer School



We offered 2 weeks of activities to children age 8+. We worked with sessional staff and volunteers to offer arts, crafts themed round dark and light. Lunch was provided for everyone each day. We had 7 volunteers supporting the work, this included 3 very capable young volunteers age 15-17yrs.

Dark week included scary painting; designing t-shirts; killing creepers (in Minecraft); sewing flat cats; tunnelling through boxes. Light week included Rangoli patterns; Diva lamp making; fun obstacle course; Bollywood dancing.

We also got out and about taking in ice skating; sailing; windsurfing; kayaking; forest school; PLOT allotment trip and obstacle course at the Scout Hut. *(82 children had fun, and were kept safe & busy, over 2 weeks)*

Future

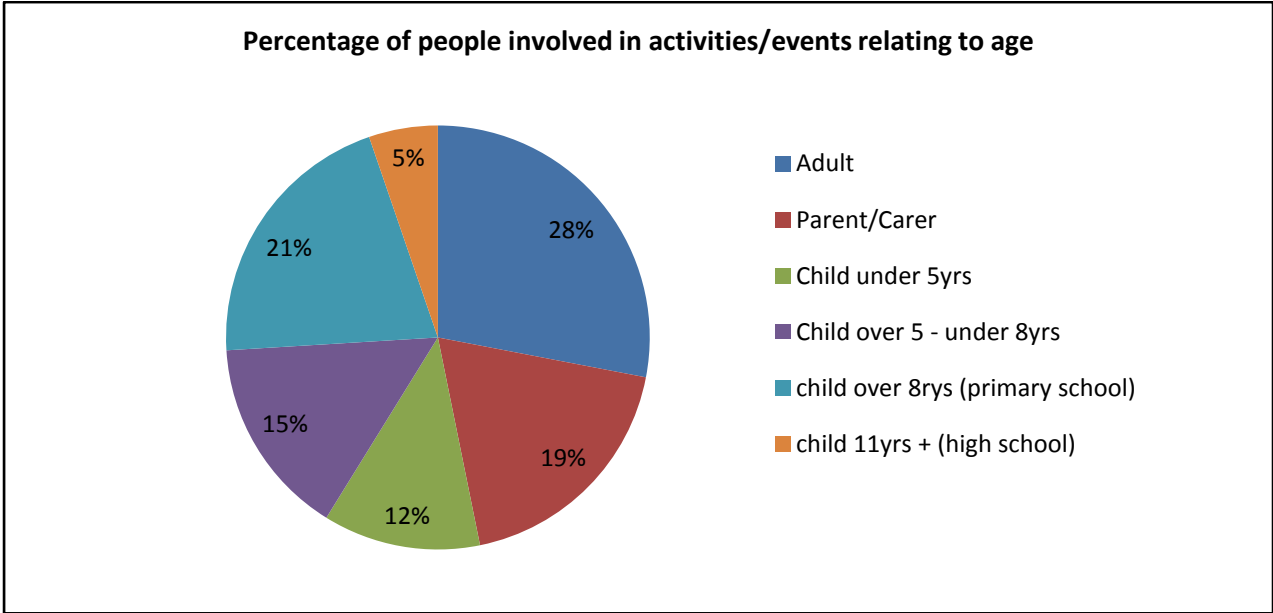
Sources of funding will have some bearing on future plans. An event for International Women’s Week 2015 will include issues around women’s health and body image. Working with the garden group there will be an event around the importance of bees. Plus we will be looking forward to our final Children in Need funded Summer School.



Statistics

Money raised through the development work post for projects in 2014 = £10,732

*The number of people recorded as attending events and activities was 2149.
(This is not individuals- one person might have come to 2 different events).*





With Partners & Associates 2013/14

St John's Church
Manchester Diocese
St John's Sunshine
Love Old Trafford
Trafford Council
Trafford College
VCAT
Workers Education Assoc.
Trafford Housing Trust
Old Trafford Partnership
Old Trafford Community Panel

